



Atlas Assistance Dogs® - Application Readiness Checklist

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Thank you for your interest in Atlas Assistance Dogs. We are glad you are considering becoming an Atlas Certified Team.

Before moving on to your pre- application please take time to carefully read through our Client Program and to go through this checklist to ensure you are ready to apply. If one or more handlers are a part of the client/dog team, then the questions below should be considered by the client and handler(s) together as they will be committing to the process and program collectively as a team. While a child client under 18 who is mature enough to do the training and manage the dog on their own does not need an additional handler, their parent/guardian will still need to be present at the initial phone interview and the initial in-person evaluation and these questions should be reviewed together by the child and their parent/guardian. This form is for your use to assess your readiness to apply. You do not need to submit this form to Atlas, though you are welcome to if you want to use it to get feedback on the requirements.

If you have any questions about our process or are unsure about whether or not you are ready to apply, feel free to contact us at info@atlasdog.org.

	Application Criteria	Yes	No
1	I have read and understood the Atlas Certified Team Program document.		
2	It is important to me to use non-aversive methods with my dog, and I will commit to ensuring all people who work with my dog honor these methods?		
3	My dog is at least 14 months old		
4	My dog is spayed or neutered, or I plan on spaying/neutering by the time of certification.		
5	Will my dog be able to pass a veterinarian’s comprehensive physical exam, including hip and elbow x-rays? The results of the exam must show the dog is healthy, has no significant signs of joint degeneration or malformation, has no physical pain in day-to-day activity or activities expected of them as your service dog, and would be fit for work for at least two years.		



	Application Criteria	Yes	No
6	My dog has passed their Canine Good Citizen's (CGC) test		
7	<p>My dog can pass Atlas' Team Readiness Assessment that includes a temperament test; dog's ability to work around distractions including dogs, children, crowds, and noises; ability to perform all tasks of the Canine Good Citizen test; ability to do more refined obedience skills in distracting settings such as walk in a heel or side, do extended waits and stays from a distance, and do formal recall from a distance; how the client and dog work together; dog's general wellbeing and client's care of the dog; and no unresolved behavioral or manners issues such as potty training, mouthing, jumping, prey-drive, begging, resource guarding, excessive vocalization, fear or aggression?</p> <p>*You can find our Obedience and Temperament Guidelines on our website to understand the criteria we are looking at for a dog to enter our program.</p>		
8	<p>I will be able to submit videos demonstrating how my dog walks on leash, reacts to other dogs, and deals with body handling.</p> <p>*You can find our Video submission guidelines on our website for reference about what videos we are looking for.</p>		
9	My dog ready to move onto more specialized service dog training? (disability skills, public access training)		
10	I have a disability that significantly impacts my life where I feel a service dog will be able to effectively mitigate some part of it		
11	I will be able to get a letter of medical indication from my doctor attesting to my disability and the value of a service dog		
12	My expectations and needs for my dog are ones I feel I can train on my own with support of an experienced team facilitator		
13	I commit to meeting with an Atlas Team Facilitator at least twice a month for a six-month period (if not more)		
14	I am willing and able to practice with my dog each day to train them to meet my needs		



	Application Criteria	Yes	No
15	I have the support system for myself as well as financial support in place to care for my dog for their entire life		

If you answered yes to these questions, you are ready to fill out a pre-application! Please go to our website and click on the “Apply Now” button to get started, or contact us directly at info@atlasdog.org if you would like further information. If you are not ready to apply yet, that is okay. Keep up your hard work and let us know when you are. If you need recommendations on how to get ready, we are here to help.

Please contact us with any questions or if you would like some advice on how to advance in your training.

We look forward to hearing from you.